BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS Infoline

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highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

Consumer Prices

- **British Columbia's inflation rate remained below the national average in November.** The consumer price index was 0.6% higher in November than in the same month last year, compared to a Canadian inflation rate of 0.9%. In BC, prices for food (2.8%), household operations (2.1%), clothing and footwear (2.6%) and transportation (0.8%) increased at rates above the national average. However, declining shelter (-1.9%) and recreation, education and reading materials prices (-0.5%), and lower than average increases for health and personal care (1.6%) and alcohol and tobacco products (2.2%) kept the province's inflation rate lower than Canada's.

  Saskatchewan, where prices were virtually unchanged (+0.1%) from November 1996, was the only province with a lower inflation rate than BC's. In other provinces, the inflation rate ranged from 0.8% in Quebec and Ontario to 1.4% in Alberta.

  In the major centres, inflation rates in all cities except Whitehorse (1.9%), Calgary (1.7%), Winnipeg (1.3%), Edmonton (1.1%) and St. John's (1.1%) were at or below one percent. Vancouver's inflation rate was 0.6%, while average prices rose 0.7% in Victoria. *Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- **The value of shipments of goods manufactured in British Columbia fell for the third straight month in October, declining 0.3% (seasonally adjusted).** Continued weakness in the wood products industry, where shipments fell for the fourth straight month in October (-2.6%), was a major factor in the decline. The electrical and electronic equipment (-16.8%) and fabricated metals (-2.5%) industries were also weak, but most other durables manufacturers fared better. In the non-durables sector, paper and allied products shipments strengthened, growing 3.1% after declining 0.7% in the previous month.

  Even though shipments increased during the first ten months of 1997, this has not been a particularly good year for the province's manufacturing sector. Shipments were up 3.2% year-to-date (compared to a 3.9% decline in the same period of 1996), but this was below the growth rates observed during the early part of the decade. Nationally, shipments were 7.3% higher than in the first ten months of 1996. PEI (20.0%), Saskatchewan (17.4%), Alberta (12.3%) and Manitoba (11.0%) all posted double-digit gains. In the rest of Canada, growth was more moderate, ranging from 1.3% in Nova Scotia to 8.2% in Ontario. The North (-38.3%), Newfoundland (-4.1%) and New Brunswick (-1.4%) were the only regions where year-to-date shipments were lower than in 1996.

  Source: Statistics Canada

- **Exports of BC products continued to slide in October.** They were 14.2% lower than in the previous October, largely due to weakness in the natural resource sector. Forest (-21.8%) and energy (-22.7%) product exports were down sharply, while exports of fish products (-5.6%) declined more moderately. However, exports of consumer goods (+27.1%) continued to surge ahead, increasing at double-digit rates for the eighth month this year. Automotive product exports were also strong (+17.4%). Nationally, exports were up 8.7%, as all provinces except Alberta (-4.7%), Saskatchewan (-6.5%) and BC posted gains.

  Despite the recent declines, merchandise exports from the province were 4.0% higher than in the first ten months of 1996. Year-to-date growth

Report **Where are all the jobs?**

Did you know...?
We're taking a break from highlights for a couple of weeks. The next issue will be released January 9th. Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at BC STATS.

has been boosted by the strong export growth during the first four months of 1997. Nationally, exports were up 6.7% year-to-date, led by 22.3% growth in Newfoundland. PEI (+16.0%) and Manitoba (+10.8%) both posted increases in excess of ten percent. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Retail sales in British Columbia were unchanged in October, at $2.8 billion (seasonally adjusted).** Sales had increased 0.1% in the previous month. Nationally, retail sales rose 0.3% between September and October, led by strong gains in PEI (2.0%), Alberta (1.7%), Manitoba (1.3%) and Ontario (1.0%). Sales were down 0.8% in Quebec, and fell in the rest of Atlantic Canada. The growth at the national level was attributed largely to rising sales by motor vehicle dealers. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Wholesale sales in BC increased 1.7% (seasonally adjusted) between September and October.** The increase was about the same as the national average (1.8%). Wholesale sales were up in all provinces except Manitoba (-0.4%). The strongest gains were in Nova Scotia (4.4%), Saskatchewan (2.7%) and Quebec (2.4%). *Source: Statistics Canada*

1996 Census of Agriculture

- **Thirty-six percent of BC farm operators in 1995 were women–more than in any other part of the country.** The national average was 25%. More than a quarter of the farm operators in Ontario (27%), Alberta (27%) and Quebec (26%) were women. Female farm operators were least common in PEI (14%), New Brunswick (16%) and Newfoundland (18%).
Source: 1996 Census of Agriculture

- **In 1995, 3.7% (1,220) of the 32,950 farm operators in the province were injured badly enough to require medical attention in 1995.** Injuries were most likely to occur on farms with one operator (4.5%). Where there were two or more operators, only 3.3% reported requiring professional medical attention for injuries received on the job.

  Nationally, 4.0% of farm operators were injured in 1995. The injury rate was lowest in Newfoundland (1.1%) and highest in Manitoba (4.6%). Alberta (4.5%) and Saskatchewan (4.3%) also had relatively high injury rates. Injury rates were highest on farms with livestock. Almost a third (31%) of the injuries were categorized as open wounds. Fractures (27%) and sprains and strains (16%) were also quite common. *Source: 1996 Census of Agriculture*

Tourism

- **The number of non-residents entering the province from the US and overseas was 4.2% higher in October than in the same month last year.** Year-to-date, entries were up 4.6% over 1996. There were 370,166 entries from the US, 7.0% more than in October 1996. Same-day trips from the States were up 6.9% to 201,530, while overnight trips increased 7.2% to 168,636. During the first ten months of the year, the number of entries from the US was 5.5% higher than in the same period last year. The US is by far the most important source of visitors to the province, accounting for just over 80% of all entries. Offsetting the continued rise in travel to the province from the US was a 6.1% decline (relative to October 1996) in the number of entries from other parts of the world. There were 5.5% fewer visitors from Asia, and entries from Europe fell 11.3%. *Source: Statistics Canada*

Crime

- **Most homicides occur in the home.** Statistics for selected criminal violations show that in 1996, 53% of Canadian homicides where location was reported occurred in private residences. Commercial buildings were the second most common location (16%), followed by streets, roads and highways (12%). Criminal harassment (68%), break and enter (62%), sexual assaults (61%), abduction (59%), kidnapping/hostage-taking (52%), and assaults (47%) were also more likely to occur in the home than in any other location. Robberies most commonly took place in commercial buildings (42%) or on streets (24%).
Source: SC, Catalogue 85-205XPE

highlights, Issue 97-51
December 19, 1997

For data originating from Statistics Canada: data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the publication name or catalogue number.

Infoline Report:

December 19, 1997

BC Employment by Industrial Sector

Originally published in November 1997 issue of *Labour Force Statistics* An annual subscription is $60 + GST

Article Overview . . . Employment gains for B.C. to date in 1997 have been led by the goods sector which has more than regained the decreases seen in late-1996. Service sector employment has remained fairly constant in 1997 after registering some significant gains in late-1996. Part-time employment is generally higher in services than goods, though some service sectors like wholesale trade have relatively low part-time employment rates. Self-employment has been noted as one of the fastest growing areas of work in the past 20 years. Two-thirds of all industries in B.C. have nearly 1 in 5 workers who are self-employed.

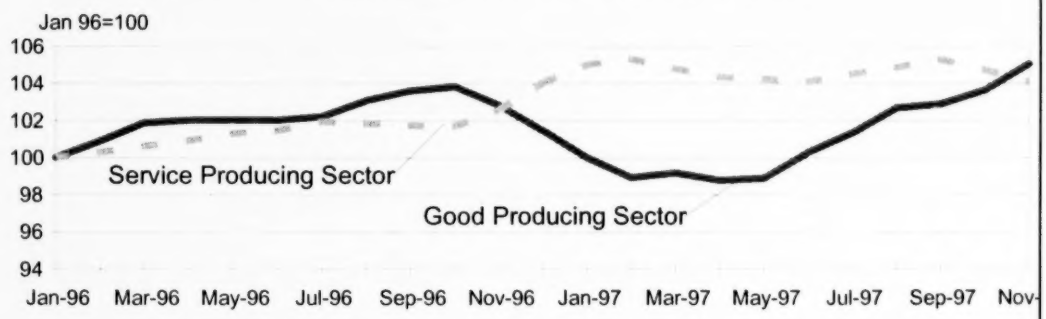
Introduction . . . Industry classification of economic activity or employment refers to the main business or function an organization or entity performs. Industry can be thought of as the place or sphere where workers work, as opposed to occupation which is what they do. Currently, a classification system called the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) defines industries on the basis of the major products or services sold by businesses or performed by organizations. Industries producing related products or services are grouped into ***sectors.***

The economy is divided into two large sectors: the goods and the service sectors. The ***goods producing sector*** includes: agriculture; other primary industries (forestry and logging, fishing and trapping, mining and petroleum extraction); manufacturing; construction; and, utilities (electric power, gas and water). The ***service producing sector*** includes: transportation, communications and storage; retail and wholesale trade; finance, insurance and real estate; community services (education and health & welfare); commercial services (business, personal, accommodation, food & beverage, and amusement); and, public administration.

Recent Industry Employment Changes . . . Figure 1 shows seasonally adjusted three-month moving average employment over the past two years by overall goods and services industrial sectors. Since employment levels in services are over 3 times that of goods, the data displayed has been indexed to allow comparison of changes. The service producing sector has shown more steady monthly growth since January 1996, marked by a strong surge in employment between October 1996 and January 1997. This was led by significant gains in retail trade and community and commercial services employment. Goods sector employment grew parallel to that of the services sector for the first nine months of 1996, but saw a seven month downturn in late 1996 and early 1997. However, goods sector employment has seen a sustained and ongoing rise from the Spring of 1997 to November 1997. Employment in the goods sector now stands at its highest monthly level in the past two years.

Figure 1: Recent B.C. Employment in Goods and Services

Seasonally Adjusted, 3 month moving average, indexed



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Net Employment Changes by Subsectors . . . Comparing the average of the first 11 months of 1996 to 1997, employment is up 2.0 per cent. Figure 2 shows net changes in industry employment within the overall goods and service sectors. Within the goods sector, manufacturing has seen a decrease of about 8,000 (a 4.5 per cent drop) between 1996 and 1997. This has been more than offset by the gains seen in all the other goods industries, except agriculture which experienced no change. Most of the service subsectors saw net employment gains over the comparison period, except public administration and a small decrease in finance, insurance and real estate. Net employment gains in services were led by community services and commercial services.

Figure 2: Net Change in B.C. Employment by Industry
(first 11 months of 1997 average compared to first 11 months of 1996 average)

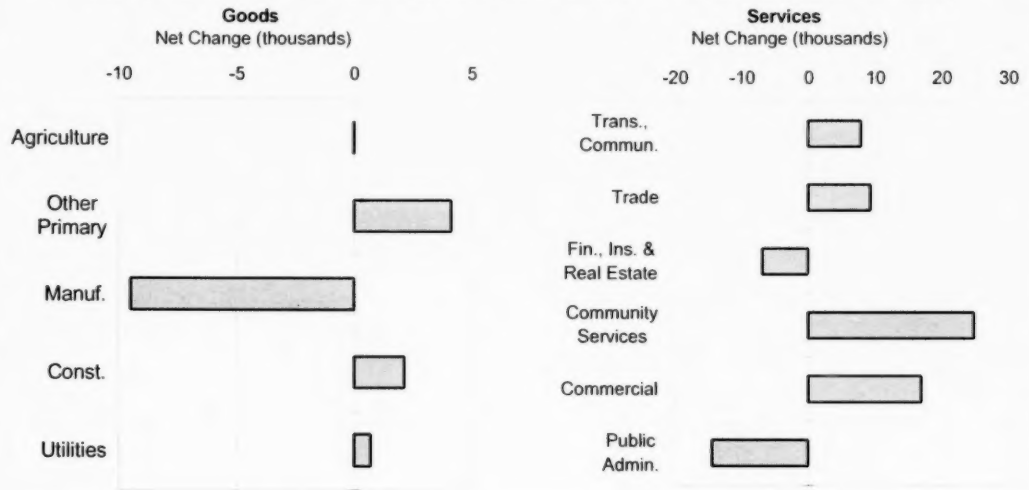
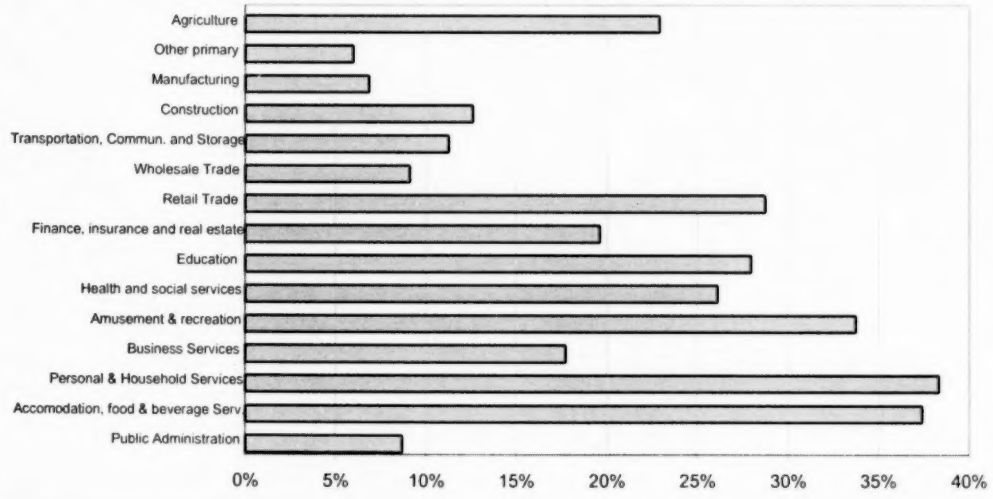


Figure 3: Share of Part-time Employment by Industry in B.C., 1996



Part-time Employment by Industry. . . Due to the nature of their business or activity, some industries have a higher proportion of part-time workers than other sectors. Given seasonal changes during the year in part-time work it is useful to consider part-time employment rates on an annual basis.

Figure 3 above shows the percentage share of part-time work by industry in B.C. for 1996. Every industry has a part-time employment rate of less than 40 per cent. Sometimes services are thought of as being higher in part-time employment, but this does not always hold true. Some services like wholesale trade, business services and public administration have part-time employment rates similar to those of goods industries like construction and manufacturing. Within the goods sector only agriculture has a part-time employment rate of over 20 per cent.

Industry and Class of Worker . . . Figure 4 shows the percentage share of employment by industry sector in terms of employees (public and private) and self-employed workers. Two-thirds of all employed persons in B.C. consist of private sector employees. Over 80 per cent of all those employed in retail and wholesale trade, manufacturing and other primary sectors are private sector employees.

Public sector employees include all those in the public administration industry. They are also found within the community services industry (e.g. public education and health care) and transportation, communications and utilities (e.g. public passenger bus and water transport).

With the exception of the public administration industry, all other sectors have a significant number of self-employed individuals. The share of self-employment to all employment in both agriculture and construction is over 40 per cent. Agriculture includes farm operators running their own businesses. Construction has a large number of private contractors and trades persons who work for themselves.

Aside from public administration, manufacturing, and transportation, communications and utilities, the share of self-employment to all employment in all other industries is near 20 per cent. This size in the share of self-employment in most industries stems in part from the increasing trend of individuals who work on contract for firms rather than as employees. This is reflected in the above average growth in self-employment during the 1990's in finance, insurance and real estate and commercial services.

Figure 4: B.C. Industry Employment by Class of Worker, 1996

	Total Workers in 000's	Private Sector Employees	Public Sector Employees	Self-Employed
Total	1805.8	67%	14%	18%
Agriculture	33.6	50%	0%	47%
Other Primary Industries	50.2	80%	2%	17%
Manufacturing	207.0	90%	0%	9%
Construction	126.9	58%	0%	41%
Trans., Commun. and Utilities	137.7	67%	22%	11%
Retail and Wholesale Trade	317.1	80%	1%	19%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	112.6	74%	7%	19%
Community, Business, & Personal Services	714.9	65%	15%	20%
Public Administration	105.8	0%	100%	0%

Seasons Greetings

From all the staff at BC STATS a Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year to you and your family.

Infoline

December 19, 1997

fax transmission information service from **BC STATS**

also on the Internet at http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jul 1/97	% change on year ago
BC	3,933.3	2.0
Canada	30,286.6	1.1
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT		% change
(BC - at market prices - $ millions)	1996	on year ago
Current Dollars	103,631	1.7
Constant (1986) Dollars	74,001	1.0
TRADE ($ millions)		
Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Oct	2,813	-4.7
Merchandise Exports (raw) Oct	2,014	-14.2
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Oct	2,760	4.9
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		% change
(all items - 1986=100)	Nov '97	on year ago
BC	139.6	0.6
Canada	138.0	0.9
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change
(seasonally adjusted)	Nov '97	on year ago
Labour Force - BC	2,028	0.5
Employed - BC	1,848	1.0
Unemployed - BC	181	-4.5
		Nov '96
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	8.9	9.4
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	9.0	10.0
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Dec 17/97	Dec 18/96
Prime Business Rate	6.00	4.75
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	6.10	5.20
- 5 year	7.05	6.95
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Dec 17/97	Dec 18/96
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.4228	1.3667
US $ *(reciprocal of above rate)*	0.7028	0.7317
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS		% change
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Sep '97	on year ago
BC	614.13	1.1
Canada	600.35	1.8

SOURCES:
Gross Domestic Product: Statistics Canada, revised by BC STATS
Population, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Earnings: Statistics Canada
Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

Survey Workshop

Statistics Canada is offering a 3-day workshop called *Surveys from Start to Finish*. The material covered leads you from questionnaire design and sampling to the processing, interpreting and presentation of survey results. Date & location:

- February 11 - 13, 1998
- 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
- Brittingham Conference Room, Bedford Regency Hotel, 1140 Government Street, Victoria.

Workshop Topics:

⇒ **Survey Planning:** 5 steps to formulate your information needs, and fundamentals of collecting data to meet those needs.

⇒ **Sampling Methods:** which methods are best for your project? The topics of probability sampling, sample size, random digit dialing and more will be covered.

⇒ **Questionnaires:** learn which structure, wording and design are best suited to your needs. Learn how to maximize response and avoid common pitfalls when building your questionnaire.

⇒ **Processing and Analysis:** the ins and outs of processing survey results, summarizing your findings and presenting them in a survey report.

Fee: The fee is $625 (plus GST). Early-bird: register before January 28th for just $575 (plus GST). Group registration (3 or more) $575. Early-bird group registration: $525.

For more information call (604) 666-1851 or fax "Workshop Registrar" at (604) 666-6966.

No Infoline on December 24

The next transmission will be January 2, 1998 featuring the **Index of Reports** for 1996. **highlights** will recommence with the January 9 transmission.

Released this week by BC STATS

- Exports, September 1997
- Current Statistics, December 1997
- Consumer Price Index, November 1997
- Business Indicators, December 1997

Next week

- No subscription releases

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